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An ANSWER to a late Pamphlet, Intituled, A Short Scheme of the Usurpations of the Crown of England, &c.

THE World may very justly wonder at several passages in this ill-designed, and as ill-writ Pamphlet, which the Author has taken the pains to collect from some petty *Grubstreet Chronicle*. *Henry II.* is call'd an Usurper (*pag. 4.*) because he accepted of the Crown of *England* in his Mothers Life-time; tho' by her not opposing his claim, it may very reasonably be concluded, that she freely consented to his promotion, as the most effectual means to secure the Crown to her Posterity.

But we are told, that a Crown is no Estate to be made over in Trust: if our Author's meaning is, that a Crown is an Estate which the Possessor cannot divest himself of by a voluntary Resignation, both Reason, and a multitude of examples in several Ages, and Nations, prove that the Principle our Author has laid down, is founded on a gross mistake. Therefore if our Author designs to publish any more Schemes of Usurpation, let him first inform us what it is, and how far it extends, lest the World should accuse him of having as notoriously usurped to himself the Title of a Writer, as any of our Princes ever did the Crown of *England*. He would perswade his Readers to believe that God punish't King *Edward III.* and King *Henry V.* for their Usurpations, with frequent and unexpected Victories, in the acquisition of which, tho' there was some *English* Blood shed (as it was impossible it should be otherwise) yet the Enemies paid an excessive price for it; after the defeat of their great Armies, and the Imprisonment of their King, they being forced to buy their Peace upon such Terms, as our conquering Usurpers pleased to impose. Nor did ever any well-wisher to the *English* Nation deny, that these Two Princes were the Glory of their



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Age, and of our *British* History. If I should reckon up all the evident mistakes and false inferences in this Libel, it would be too tedious, since a careless Eye cannot easily overlook them.

If the Pamphlet finds so undeserved a reception in the World as to need a Second Impression, the Author is desired to add to it this *Postscript*; which being founded on the Principles asserted by him, will shew the World that he hath wilfully, and perhaps partially forbore to speak of as notorious an Usurper, as any that are mentioned in his Scheme.

Queen *Mary*, the Off-spring of an Incestuous Marriage, had no other unquestionable Divine Right to the Crown of *England*, than what was given her by an Act of *Parliament*, made in her Father's Reign, and the common consent of the Nobility and People after the Death of her Brother King *Edward VI.* whose disposal of the Crown by Letters Patents under the Great Seal, being directly contrary to the former entail of it, limited by a higher Authority: his Sister, the Lady *Mary*, was acknowledged Queen. Therefore, according to our Authors abstruse Notions, She (as well as her Grand-father *Henry VII.*) must be reckoned among the Usurpers of the Crown of *England*. Let us now see what success attended her, and whether the Nation was happy under her Government. As soon as She saw her self fixed in the Throne, She imprisoned and deprived several of the *Protestant* Bishops, contrary to the then Establish'd Laws of the Realm: She intruded *Popish* Bishops into the Sees, thus declared vacant; the small remainder of the *Protestant* Bishops, who had been called to *Parliament* by Writ, were, nevertheless, violently thrust out of the *Parliament-House*, for refusing to Worship the Mass. The Members of the *House of Commons*, in her *First Parliament*, were chosen by force and threats: the Freeholders were hindred by violence from exercising their right of chusing *Representatives*: false returns were made; and those who were for the Reformed Religion, tho' duly elected, were by force expelled the House. So that we cannot wonder at the Statutes made in this pretended *Free Parliament*; which was in every thing influenced by the Court.

Court-Party. Shortly after, her Marriage with the haughty jealous *Spaniard* (of which She her self felt the ill consequences) was justly disliked by the Nobility and Commonalty. Her base design of setting up a suppositious Child for the Heir to the Crown, was not only happily defeated, but deservedly exposed to the censure of the Nation: Her Design to erect the *Spanish Inquisition* in *England* was disappointed. *Calais* (after having belonged to the Crown of *England* about Two hundred and Eleven Years, and which was gained with great difficulty, after Eleven Months Siege) was in the depth of Winter lost in a Weeks time : and quickly after, all the *English* Territories were with small difficulty recovered by the *French*. We must not forget how exactly She put in practice the base, treacherous, and destructive Principles of the pretended *Catholic Religion*, in these remarkable particulars. She barbarously used her only Sister, the Lady *Elizabeth*, and designed to have taken away her Life, for no other cause, but her firm adherence to the *Protestant Religion*; She imprisoned and burnt Arch-Bishop *Cranmer*, who had formerly sheltered her from her Fathers fury ; She deprived and imprisoned Judge *Hales*, who alone resolutely opposed King *Edward* the Sixth's Will ; and preferred Judge *Bromley* to be Lord Chief Justice, tho' he had without any reluctancy prepared the Letters-Patents for her Exclusion. The Inhabitants of *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*, who were the first that took up Arms for her (upon her Promise to permit them the Exercise of their Religion) were the first that suffered persecution under her. And after She had put to Death near Three hundred persons (without respect to Quality, Age, or Sex,) it pleased God to put an end to the *Romish Cruelty* and *Idolatry*, by her unexpected and unlamented Death. Nor is her Memory preserved from Oblivion by any thing, but her repeated acts of *Cruelty* and *Injustice*. This was the success that attended her, this the happiness, the Liberry, the Religion establisht in the *English* Nation, during her five Years Tyranny.

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That I may not detain the Reader any longer, I will conclude this advice to our Learned *Pamphleteer*; That for the future he do not so positively ascribe all unhappy accidents, as frequent Wars, and Rebellions, the Effusion of *English* Blood, the unfortunate end of some of our Princes, to the Divine Vengeance upon them, for the Usurpations he accuses them of; since, if he will consult our Historians, he may find that *Edward II.* *Richard II.* and the Incomparable Prince, King *Charles I.* tho' their Title from *William* the Conqueror is indisputable, were far unhappier than any of the Usurpers he mentions. That in *Edward* the Fourth's, and *Henry* the Eighth's Reign, a great deal of *English* Blood was shed both at home and abroad, tho' their right was unquestionable, and universally acknowledged. And that as to the promiscuous good or ill success of all Affairs in this lower World; the observation of the Wisest of Princes, and of Men, is very often exactly verified. There is one event to the Righteous and to the Wicked: To the Prince who ascends the Throne by an unquestionable Right, and to him that ascends it by Violence and Usurpation. To the Prince that religiously performs the Solemn Oath taken at his Coronation, and to him that wilfully breaks through all the Obligations he is under, and endeavours by the most base Methods to dissolve the *Established Government*.

F I N I S.

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